

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 16, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 16 was previously canceled. Claims 2 and 8 are now also canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed November 16, 2004, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,186,068 (Gelbart) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,650 (Petersen) and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,397,743 (Dauer). The remaining claims are rejected as unpatentable over Gelbart, Petersen, and Dauer in view of various other references.

Independent claim 1 has now been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2, dependent claim 8 and some limitations of intervening dependent claim 4.

As stated in MPEP §2143, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combines) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that at least the rejections of dependent claims 2 and 8 do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because none of the references disclose, teach or suggest all of the features of the carrying tube recited in dependent claim 2 or the intermediate sleeve recited in dependent claim 8.

Regarding the rejection of dependent claim 2, the limitations of dependent claim 2 which are now incorporated in independent claim 1 recite that the mounting includes a tube fixed in said frame and a spindle mounted in the carrying tube, said spindle being connected to said carrier cylinder and said motor and being arranged in said carrying tube and a having a drive connection to said spindle. The Examiner states that Petersen discloses these limitations at col. 3, lines 4-8. This portion of Petersen discloses that motor spindles 10, 11, 12, and 13 are attached to respective cylinder bodies by screws and that the motors are accommodated in the tubular bodies of the motor spindles. However, this disclosure does not disclose, teach or suggest that the mounting includes a tube and that the motor is arranged in that tube. Rather, Petersen discloses that the motor is arranged within the tube defined by the motor spindle. That motor spindle is connected to the printing tube in Petersen and can therefore not be connected to the frame. Therefore, Petersen fails to disclose teach or suggest the carrying tube which was recited in dependent claim 2 and is now incorporated in independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because none of the references disclose, teach or suggest the features of the carrying tube recited in dependent claim 2, and now recited in independent claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of claim 8, the Examiner states that Gelbart discloses an intermediate sleeve and refers to an intermediate layer on the structure referenced by reference character (3). The limitations of claim 8, which are now incorporated in independent claim 1, recite that the intermediate sleeve is "arranged for receiving a printing plate that can be clamped onto said intermediate sleeve". Reference character 3 in Gelbart refers to a printing sleeve (e.g., see col. 2, lines 25 of Gelbart). During a telephonic conversation of February 22, 2005, the Examiner indicated that any sleeve such as the sleeve 3 in Gelbart could be considered to be an intermediate

sleeve. However, that broad interpretation of the claim language ignores the limitation which recites that the intermediate sleeve is arranged for receiving a printing plate that can be clamped onto said intermediate sleeve. The present application discloses at least two structures which allows a printing plate to be clamped onto the intermediate plate: (1) holes 17 which allows pressurized air to be blown onto the printing plate and expand the printing plate 16 for pushing-on and removal (page 6, lines 5-6) and (2) clamping device 18 (page 6, lines 17-20). Since Gelbart discloses that reference character 3 is a printing sleeve, Gelbart fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the printing sleeve itself is arranged for receiving a printing plate that can be clamped thereto", as expressly recited by previous independent claim 8 and now recited by amended independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 8 does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness because none of the references disclose, teach or suggest the features of the intermediate sleeve recited in dependent claim 8, and now recited in independent claim 1.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that at least the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 2 and 8 should be withdrawn as failing to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 8, and is allowable over the prior art of record in view of the above comments.

Dependent claims 3-7, 9-15, and 17, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

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